UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

REC-24

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 4, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: BOOK ENTITLED "FOUR DAYS"
ON ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

BACKGROUND: Both the United Press International (UPI) book "Four Days" and the Associated Press (AP) book "The torch is passed," which cover events surrounding the assassination of the late President, contain reference to an FBI Agent being stopped in one of the corridors by Secret Service men in the Parkland Memorial Hospital the afternoon of the assassination, November 22, 1963.

On Page 25 of the UPI book it is stated, "Suddenly two Secret Service men burst into the room. One of them, his face contorted with anguish, was waving a submachine gun. Staff members dived for cover. A man in a business suit dashed in; the agent slammed him against the wall with one punch. Dazed, the man pulled out F. B. I. credentials and gasped, 'I've got to call J. Edgar Hoover.' A moment later the President and Governor Connally were carried into the hospital...."

The AP book states on Page 14, next to the last paragraph, "Moments before the President arrived at the emergency entrance, a Secret Service agent, face lined with emotion, had dashed in with a submachine gun..... A man in a business suit ran in and the agent slugged him on the jaw before the man, sinking to the floor, could bring out the card that identified him as an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Lyle Wilson, of UPI, when we questioned the accuracy of his Dallas UPI reporter, Bryce Miller, advised us that a Dr. Crenshaw had said he had not found any person who could say he actually saw the blow struck. Miller claimed that two interns, Dr. Gerald E. Gustason and Dr. Wayne E. Delaney, saw the Agent struggling and "a city cop standing there explained that the Agent had been slugged."

On Mr. Jones' memorandum to me dated 2-3-64 in captioned matter, the Director asked "Why dont we nail down Drs. Gustason and Delaney as to their story?"

OBSERVATION: Both the UPI and the AP account (above) relating to an FBI man being slugged, placed the incident as occurring moments before the President and Governor Connally were carried into the hospital. We have made a check and determined that this

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - M. A. Jones
REW:amr
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C. D. DeLoach to Mr. Mohr Memorandum
Re: Book Entitled "Four Days" on Assassination
of President Kennedy, United Press International

is absolutely false because we had no men there at the time. The first FBI man to arrive on the scene arrived approximately 10 minutes after the President and Governor Connally were brought in. This man, SA Vincent Drain, called SAC Shanklin with a definite word the President was dead. SA Drain had no difficulty with Secret Service, there was full cooperation, and he was in the emergency room occupied by the President with a doctor known to him. Governor Connally was in a room across the corridor.

FBI men were present in the hospital beginning at about 10 minutes after the President was brought in. Secret Service men were present in abundance. Bedlam had broken loose in the corridors. It was utter chaos and confusion. The corridors were jammed with people, consisting of doctors, hospital personnel, etc., going in and out of swinging doors in the area of the two emergency rooms.

We have determined that one of our FBI Agents was stopped by Secret Service at a swinging door through which he attempted to pass to a telephone. The FBI Agent was not "slugged on the jaw" or "slammed against the wall with one punch." It is known, however, he was stopped by Secret Service, as were countless other people.

As pointed out above by Dr. Crenshaw, the latter could not find anyone who saw a blow struck and the two interns say they saw the Agent struggling to get up from the floor. It is possible the doctors confused the man on the floor immediately before the President was brought in, with the FBI Agent stopped some time later (10 to 15 minutes) by Secret Service. After a very careful analysis of the mixed up circumstances here, it is believed that since Dr. Crenshaw has questioned the doctors and UPI reporter Bryce Miller has questioned them, we will come up with the same confused story if we were to question them.

Part [illegible] [illegible]

The fact remains there was no frictional differences between the FBI and Secret Service the afternoon of 11-22-63 at the hospital, there was full cooperation and there has been no difficulty whatever. Both UPI and AP will omit references to the above incident in future printings. Lyle Wilson states there is little likelihood of another print order of the book.

RECOMMENDATION:

That no further action in this matter be taken.

SAC Shanklin
held by Dick 2-15/64
to have them interviewed
& send in teletype which
he did 2-6-64

I still think questions
& Debarry should put up
or shut up.